

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 FEAE-00 INT-05 /107 W

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P 181437Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3139

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1475

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, SL

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT STEVENS' REMARKS ON POUND-LEONE LINKAGE AND  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES

1. SPEAKING EXTEMPORANEOUSLY MAY 14 AT OPENING OF PRIMIN  
KAMARA-TAYLOR'S MADIN SECONDARY SCHOOL SELF-HELP PROJECT,  
PRESIDENT STEVENS VOLUNTEERED ELIPTICAL COMMENTS ON  
A) PROBLEMS OF LINKAGE OF LEONE TO SAGGING BRITISH  
POUND (ONE POUND EQUALS TWO LEONES), AND B) SIERRA  
LEONEAN VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES.

2. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED AND TRASCRIBED SLBS TAPE OF  
STEVENS REMARKS. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PERTINENT PORTION:  
QUOTE: I THINK I MUST USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LET YOU  
KNOW THAT WORLD CONDITIONS BEING WHAT THEY ARE, THE PRICE  
OF PETROL UPON WHICH SO MUCH DEPENDS IN THIS COUNTRY, IS  
LIKELY TO GO UP AGAIN IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THE  
REASON WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN IN THE PRESENT CASE IS THAT  
WE ARE TIED TO THE POUND AND THAT POUND IS GOING DOWN  
SO THAT WE NEED MORE LEONES OR MORE POUNDS NOW TO BUY THE  
SAME QUANTITY OF PETROL OR DIESEL OIL THAT WE WERE  
BUYING BEFORE. OUR BANKERS ARE NOW LOOKING INTO THIS MATTER  
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OF OUR BEING TIED TO THE POUND, BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW THAT

THE POUND IS SINKING, SINKING AND TO BE TIED TO A SINKING  
MAN YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WILL MEAN TO YOURSELF...(LAUGHTER).  
AS I SAID WHEN I STARTED I WILL NOT SPEAK LONG BECAUSE OF  
THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE MATTER TO WHICH  
I WOULD LIKE TO REFER. ONE OF THE MAIN TOPICS OF INTER-  
NATIONAL DISCUSSIONS TODAY IS WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED THE  
INTRUSION OF OUTSIDERS INTO AFRICAN AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY  
IN SOUTH AFRICA, IN RHODESIA, IN NAMIBIA AND OTHER AREAS  
IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. WE IN SIERRA LEONE ON THIS  
PARTICULAR POINT FEEL THAT WHEN A MAN IS DROWNING ECONO-  
MICALLY, OR POLITICALLY, OR OTHERWISE, HE WILL GRAB AT  
ANYTHING THAT COMES WITHIN HIS REACH, IF HE DOESN'T DO  
THAT THEN HE IS FOLLOWING A SUICIDAL COURSE. PERHAPS IT  
IS LEFT TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO LAID SUCH EMPHASIS ON THIS  
TYPE OF INTERFERENCE TO ARRANGE AFFAIRS IN RELATION TO  
AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE NECESSITY  
WILL NOT ARISE TO GRAB AT ANYTHING WHICH COMES ALONG.  
UNQUOTE.

3. AMBASSADOR SAMUELS ARRIVING DEPT MAY 18 AND CAN PROVIDE  
COMMENT ON STEVENS' THINKING ON THESE POINTS AS THEY  
RELATE TO SUBJECTS WHICH LIKELY ARISE IN DISCUSSIONS  
DURING STEVENS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK.  
SULLIVAN

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